

Table 1. Summary of hypotheses, corresponding specific predictions, and results. We count predictions as fully supported ('yes') when the response is significant in single-variable tests (Table 4) and included in all top full models and as partially supported ('(yes)') or rejected ('(no)') when the direction of response consistently matched the prediction but the effect was not significant in all models.

Hypotheses & Specific Predictions	Prediction supported?				Results
	Overall	1966	1977	1999	
Tree size and microenvironment					
<i>Larger, taller trees have lower Rt.</i>					
Rt decreases with stem diameter (DBH).	yes	yes	-	-	Table 4
Rt decreases with height (H).	yes	yes	-	(yes)	Tables 4, 5
<i>Trees with more exposed crowns have lower Rt.</i>					
Dominant trees have lowest Rt.	-	yes	(yes)	-	Tables 4, 5
Correcting for H, dominant trees have lowest Rt.	(no)		-	(no)	Tables 4, 5
<i>Small trees (lower root volume) in drier microhabitats have lower Rt.</i>					
There is a negative interactive effect between H and topographic wetness index.	-	-	-	-	Table 4
Species traits					
<i>Species' traits—particularly leaf hydraulic traits—predict Rt.</i>					
Wood density correlates (positively or negatively) to Rt.	-	-	-	-	Table 4
Leaf mass per area correlates positively to Rt.	-	-	-	-	Table 4
Ring-porous species have higher Rt than diffuse- or semi-ring- porous.	-	yes	(no)	yes	Tables 4, 5
Percent loss leaf area upon desiccation correlates negatively with Rt.	yes	yes	(yes)	-	Tables 4, 5
Water potential at turgor loss correlates negatively with Rt.	(yes)	-	(yes)	(yes)	Tables 4, 5

Table 2. Summary of variables.

variable	<i>symbol</i>	units	description	category	n
Dependent variable					
drought resistance	<i>Rt</i>	-	ratio of growth during drought year to mean growth of the 5 years prior.	-	1596
Independent variables					
drought year	<i>Y</i>	-	year of drought	1966 1977 1999	478 547 571
<i>tree size</i>					
diameter breast height	<i>DBH</i>	cm	DBH in drought year	-	all
height	<i>H</i>	m	estimated H in drought year	-	all
<i>microhabitat</i>					
crown position	<i>CP</i>	-	2018 crown position	dominant (D) co-dominant (C) intermediate (I) suppressed (S)	31 231 224 101
topographic wetness index	<i>TWI</i>	-	steady-state wetness index based on slope and upstream contributing area	-	all
<i>species' traits</i>					
wood density	<i>WD</i>	g cm-3	dry mass of a unit volume of fresh wood	-	all
leaf mass per area	<i>LMA</i>	kg m-2	ratio of leaf dry mass to fresh leaf area	-	all
xylem porosity	<i>XP</i>	-	vessel arrangement in xylem	ring (R) semi-ring (SR) diffuse (D)	408 31 178
turgor loss point	<i>TLP</i>	MPa	water potential at which leaves wilt	-	all
percent loss area	<i>PLA</i>	%	percent loss of leaf area upon dessication	-	all

Table 3. Overview of analyzed species, their productivity in the plot, numbers and sizes sampled, and traits. Given are DBH mean and range of cored trees, the number of cores represented by each crown position of each species, and mean hydraulic trait measurements.

species	percent.ANPP	n.cores	mean.DBH_cm	DBH.range_cm	xylem.porosity	PLA_percent	LMA_g.per.cm2	TLP_Mpa	WD_g.per.cm3
Liriodendron tulipifera	47.1	109	36.9	90.4	diffuse	19.56	46.92	-1.92	0.40
Quercus alba	10.7	66	47.2	67.7	ring	8.52	75.80	-2.58	0.61
Quercus rubra	10.1	71	54.9	136.9	ring	11.01	71.13	-2.64	0.62
Quercus velutina	7.8	83	54.1	98.2	ring	13.42	48.69	-2.39	0.65
Quercus montana	4.8	67	42.2	76.7	ring	11.75	71.77	-2.36	0.61
Fraxinus americana	3.8	69	35.4	88.3	ring	13.06	43.28	-2.10	0.56
Carya glabra	3.7	39	31.4	88.7	ring	21.09	42.76	-2.13	0.62
Juglans nigra	2.1	31	48.1	62.8	semi-ring*	24.64	72.13	-2.76	1.09
Carya cordiformis	2.0	17	27.2	50.8	ring	17.22	45.86	-2.13	0.83
Carya tomentosa	2.0	18	21.0	20.1	ring	16.56	45.36	-2.20	0.83
Fagus grandifolia	1.5	81	23.5	96.0	diffuse	9.45	30.68	-2.57	0.62
Carya ovalis	1.1	24	35.3	51.1	ring	14.80	47.60	-2.48	0.96

*Semi-ring porosity is intermediate between ring and diffuse. We group it with diffuse-porous species for more even division of species between categories.

Table 4. Single-variable tests of hypothesized drivers of drought resistance. Models including each variable were compared to corresponding null models. dAICc is the AICc of the null model minus that of the model including the variable (thus, dAICc>2 indicates that the variable significantly improves the model)

variable	category	null model variables	all droughts		1966		1977		1999	
			dAICc	coefficients	dAICc	coefficients	dAICc	coefficients	dAICc	coefficients
Tree size and microenvironment										
ln[DBH]		(year)	8.17**	-0.0385	15.32**	-0.0888	-0.87	-0.0214	-1.93	0.0057
ln[H]		(year)	8.17**	-0.0600	15.32**	-0.1383	-0.87	-0.0334	-1.93	0.0089
crown position (alone)	D	(year)	-2.96	-0.0461	3.25**	-0.0509	0.66	-0.0759	0.38	-0.0103
	C		-	0.0000	-	0.0000	-	0.0000	-	0.0000
	I		-	-0.0063	-	0.0732	-	-0.0298	-	-0.0563
	S		-	0.0122	-	0.0526	-	0.0432	-	-0.0483
crown position (with height)	D	ln[H] (+year)	0.57	-0.0347	-1.84	-0.0328	-0.23	-0.0730	3.04**	-0.0024
	C		-	0.0000	-	0.0000	-	0.0000	-	0.0000
	I		-	-0.0425	-	0.0139	-	-0.0388	-	-0.0810
	S		-	-0.0582	-	-0.0662	-	0.0258	-	-0.0956
ln[TWI]		ln[H] (+year)	5.34**	-0.0890	-1.96	-0.0171	5.05**	-0.1404	2.8**	-0.1033
ln[TWI]*ln[H]		ln[H]+ln[TWI] (+year)	-0.83	0.0797	-1.58	0.0927	-1.47	0.0861	-1.9	0.0414
Species traits										
wood density		ln[H] (+year)	-1.91	-0.0479	-1.24	-0.2089	-1.22	-0.1812	0.22	0.2502
leaf mass per area		ln[H] (+year)	-1.99	0.0003	-1.88	0.0012	-1.76	-0.0013	-2	0.0004
xylem porosity	R	ln[H] (+year)	-0.71	0.0660	2.305**	0.1888	1.399*	-0.1452	3.765**	0.1544
	D/SR		-	0.0000	-	0.0000	-	0.0000	-	0.0000
turgor loss point		ln[H] (+year)	1.33*	-0.1777	-1.64	-0.1078	1.26*	-0.2500	0.016	-0.1732
percent loss area		ln[H] (+year)	7.17**	-0.0140	9.18**	-0.0249	-0.05	-0.0105	-0.716	-0.0074

*dAICc > 1: variable qualified for inclusion in full model

**dAICc > 2: statistically significant, variable qualified for inclusion in full model

Table 5. Summary of top full models for each drought instance. Models are ranked by AICc, and we show all models whose AICc value falls within 1.0 (dAICc<1) of the best model (bold).

drought	dAICc	R2	Intercept	ln[H]	crown position				ln[TWI]	xylem architecture			PLA	TLP
					D	C	I	S		D/SR	R			
all	0.000	0.12	1.077	-0.057	-	-	-	-	-0.086	-	-		-0.012	-0.113
	0.586	0.11	1.365	-0.055	-	-	-	-	-0.086	-	-		-0.013	-
	0.726	0.12	1.220	-0.089	-0.034	0	-0.037	-0.051	-0.079	-	-		-0.012	-0.101
	0.813	0.11	1.481	-0.089	-0.034	0	-0.039	-0.054	-0.079	-	-		-0.014	-
1966	0.000	0.25	1.503	-0.141	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.11		-0.021	-
1977	0.000	0.21	1.136	-	-	-	-	-	-0.145	0	-0.205		-0.015	-0.13
	0.040	0.21	1.490	-	-	-	-	-	-0.145	0	-0.22		-0.017	-
	0.505	0.22	1.089	-	-0.069	0	-0.025	0.043	-0.137	0	-0.199		-0.014	-0.143
	0.818	0.22	1.481	-	-0.07	0	-0.027	0.038	-0.136	0	-0.216		-0.017	-
1999	0.000	0.23	0.464	-	-	-	-	-	-0.095	0	0.16		-	-0.197
	0.019	0.24	0.725	-0.068	0	0	-0.077	-0.09	-0.084	0	0.167		-	-0.183



Figure 1. Climate and species-level growth responses over our study period, highlighting the three focal droughts (a) and community-wide responses Time series plot (a) shows peak growing season (May–August) climate conditions and residual chronologies for each species. Focal droughts are indicated by dashed lines, and shading indicates the pre-drought period used in calculations of the resistance metric. Figure modified from Helcoski *et al.* (2019). Density plots (b) show the distribution of resistance values for each drought.

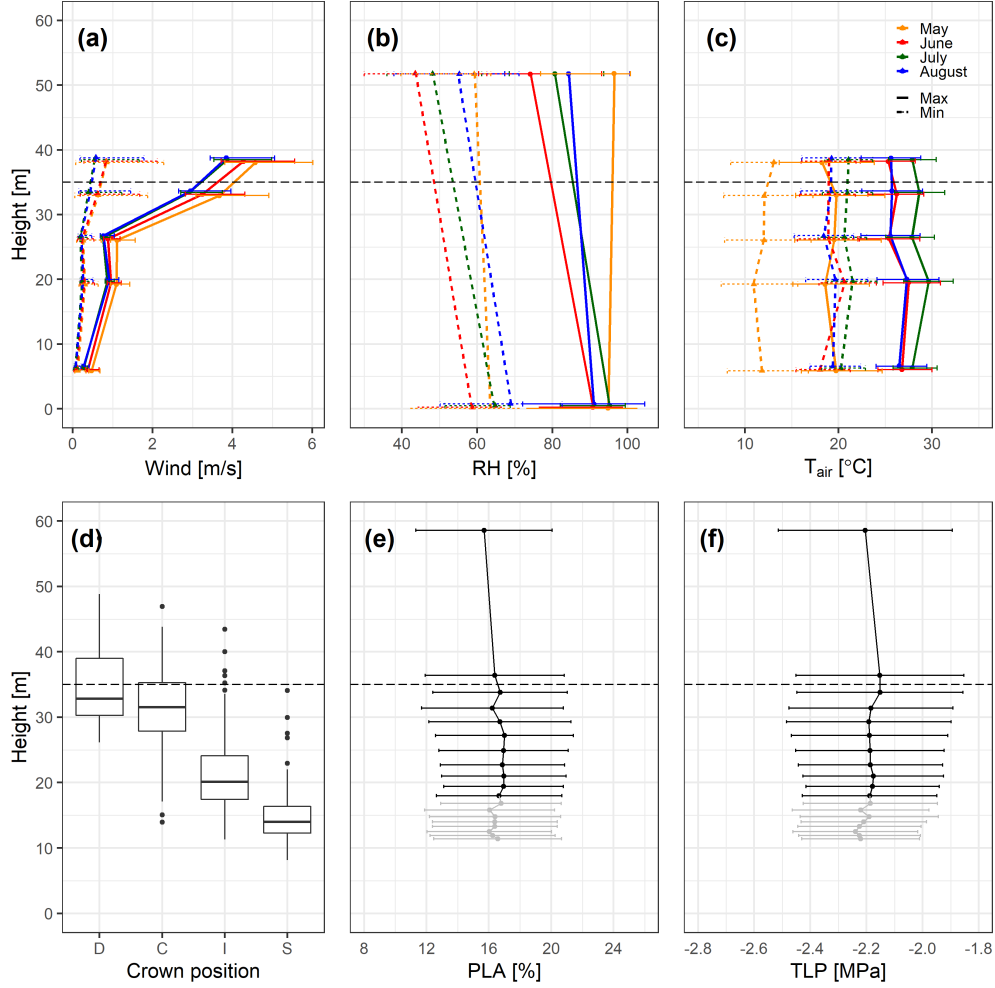


Figure 2. Height profiles in growing season climatic conditions, tree heights by crown position, and leaf hydraulic traits The top row shows averages (\pm SD) of daily maxima and minima of (a) wind speed, (b) relative humidity (RH), and (c) air temperature (T_{air}) averaged over each month of the peak growing season (May-August) from 2016-2018. In these plots, heights are slightly offset for visualization purposes. Also shown are (d) 2018 tree heights by canopy position (see Table 2 for codes) and vertical profiles in (e) PLA_{dry} and (f) π_{tlp} . In (e-f), values are community-wide averages across height bins (plotted at upper end of height bin), with grey indicating bins for which species-level trait measurements are available for <75% of individuals. In all plots, the dashed horizontal line indicates the 95th percentile of tree heights in the ForestGEO plot.